

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

MINUTES OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Monday, 24th January, 2022

Present:- **Councillors** Joel Hirst, Shelley Bromley, Paul Crossley, Grant Johnson, Ruth Malloy, Lisa O'Brien and Ryan Wills

Apologies for absence: Councillors: Karen Walker

42 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Joel Hirst (Vice chair of the Panel) welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following statement:

“Due to the ongoing Covid situation and a desire to retain a level of social distancing at Council meetings at this time, we are holding this meeting virtually. We will review this approach for any future meetings, in line with government and health guidance at that time.”

43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Karen Walker sent her apologies.

44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

45 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

46 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

The Panel noted the Question and Answer document that was circulated (and is attached to the minutes).

47 MINUTES

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

48 AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel, and Cathryn Brown, Clean Air Zone Team Manager, introduced the report and gave a presentation which covered the following:

(Councillor Dave Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services was also present to answer questions from the Panel).

- Background
- Pollutants monitored in BANES
- How we monitor pollutants
- How we present the data
- Average trends in BANES
- CAZ Assessment
- CAZ compliance and other
- Temple Cloud Air Quality Management Area
- Farrington Gurney Air Quality Management Area
- Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney Air Quality Action Plan
- Keynsham Air Quality Management Area
- Salford Air Quality Management Area
- Environment Act 2021. World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines
- AQ data – published on Forward Plan

Panel members asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Lisa O'Brien asked why there was tree cutting in Temple Cloud when we are trying to plant trees. Councillor Dave Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, explained there was a canopy of tree coverage over one road which was trapping pollution, they have been pruned back. Also, some vegetation by the road was cut back as it was narrowing the road.

Councillor Grant Johnson commented that it was difficult to draw meaningful conclusions due to the effect of lockdown but he would be interested to see the long term trends. He asked the following questions (*Officer or Cabinet Member response shown in italics*):

- He asked about the Enterprise Zone at Farrington Gurney with regard to Air Quality Assessment. *The officer explained that there would be a traffic assessment as part of the planning application, and this would feed into the Air Quality Assessment – that is how the AQ impact would be shown.*
- There are differences between the levels in Temple Cloud and other areas such as Pensford and Whitchurch. Why are there such differences when all are situated along the A37. *The officer explained that there is more open space along the road at Farrington Gurney whereas Temple Cloud has high hedges and housing along the road, it is more constrained.*

Councillor Andy Wait asked what information or data is supplied by the laboratory from the NO₂ tubes. *The officer explained that the tubes contain a material that absorbs the NO₂ and the laboratory reports back monthly levels – the yearly average is worked out from this.*

Councillor Ryan Wills asked the following questions (*Officer or Cabinet Member response shown in italics*):

- The report stated that the World Health Organisation wants a more ambitious limit – what is it? *The officer explained that the WHO guideline value is hugely ambitious and there are interim targets for cities to move towards achieving them. Consultation is taking place now with results expected in the Autumn. We will bring this back to the Panel when we have the consultation results.*
- Temple Cloud is still over the limit in some areas, will there be additional action? *Councillor Dave Wood explained that there had been a significant drop in levels in Temple Cloud but further interventions are planned around HGV light up signage. There will also be the impact on the A37 of the Bristol Clean Air Zone.*

Councillor Joel Hirst asked if there was a simple way for Panel members to get information on vehicle displacement (eg. Rush Hill) as the data on this is impenetrable. *The officer acknowledged that the information is quite technical and would work to enable simpler reporting.*

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked what other routes were being looked at that had been flagged up by members of the public. *The officer stated that there were 18 locations (in the appendix to the recent quarterly report) that were at various stages of investigation. She explained that identification was being affected by the current work at Cleveland Bridge.*

Councillor Malloy stated that the bar charts in the report were helpful.

Councillor Hirst explained that it was helpful for Panel members to receive slides earlier to enable them to fully read through before the meeting.

The officer thanked Panel member for their feedback.

49 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel, and Jane Wildblood, Corporate and Community Sustainability Manager (along with officers Nick Plumley and Christopher May), introduced the report and gave presentations which covered the following:

- 2021 Context
- The Panel is asked to note and review
- Climate Emergency Highlight Report
- Carbon Emissions Progress Update
- Achievements and delivery
- Case Studies
- Community Engagement
- Climate and Biodiversity Festival
- Action Plan 2022

- Draft Route Map
- Council House Building Programme – Approach to Energy Efficiency/Carbon reduction
- AECB Standard – New build and Retrofit
- Outcomes so Far – examples
- Key messages
- Keynsham Recycling Hub – Pixash Lane

Panel members asked the following questions and made the following points:

Councillor Shelly Bromley stated that she found the route map helpful. She asked if incentives for retro fitting private homes came from Government or the Council. *Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel, explained that there is a section on the website called 'Energy at Home' with details of grants. It is hard for the authority to do this on its own, we are working with WECA and lobbying. Jane Wildblood added that this is being looked at currently, WECA have an idea to set up a hub for the whole of the West of England. We also need to look at how to tackle the supply chain. Councillor Hirst asked that in future updates, progress with retro fitting is highlighted.*

Councillor Lisa O'Brien asked the following questions (*Officers or Cabinet Members responses are shown in italics*):

- There are a lot of new initiatives regarding Climate Emergency. In point 10 on area wide emissions, information from 2005 and 2009 is used so the information on reduction covers a long period. *Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel, explained that there were problems with the newer data and we can get a better view over a longer period. Regarding reduction over the last 2 years – developments such as Keynsham Civic Centre had already been built so better to look over a longer period.*
- Grosvenor Place – it is great that the Grade 1 challenges have been tackled but this must have come at a high cost. *The officer explained that with a complete refit, the cost was not as high as a retro fit.*
- Pixash Lane – the plan shows vehicles in parking lots, at the moment it is circular which is easier for residents so that they don't have to carry so much – will the changes make it less easy? Also, the access roads for HGVs will need to be considered to prevent clogging. *The officer explained that there would be a one-way rotary system, the idea is to keep the flow moving. The parking on the road is not ideal in terms of clogging, also HGV driving in and out has been transport modelled. Vehicle flow will be outside peak hours and will be controlled and monitored accordingly.*

Councillor Grant Johnson commented that there was a lot to scrutinize and there needs to be more ambition in the substance and actions. He stated that plans for a Citizens Jury were being used to deflect from the administrations difficult and

unpopular projects. He asked the following questions (*Officers or Cabinet Members responses are shown in italics*):

- There is celebration on the reduction of waste send to landfill but that is because more is being incinerated. Recycling is lower than previous years. *Councillor Dave Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, explained that in the hierarchy, landfill was worst option and ‘Energy from Waste’ is next. He stated that percentage rates for recycling are the highest they have ever been, that is why less waste is going to landfill.*
- *In response to a question about tree planting, Councillor Dave Wood explained that the figures presented are direct BANES planting but a lot of planting will be in partnership with others.*
- *In response to the comments made above, Councillor Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainable Travel, stated that Citizens Juries gather public opinion and are appropriate to use.*

Councillor Andy Wait asked about Keynsham Memorial Park in relation to recycling points in the area. *The officer explained that this is usual practice, points are awarded for a wider land area. Further details can be explained outside of the meeting.*

Councillor Joel Hirst asked if there is a target around renewable energy production in BANES. *Councillor Sarah Warren explained that there are some particular challenges in being a World Heritage Area and Cotswald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. She explained that Covid had delayed the work of the team, but they are now recruiting.* Councillor Hirst asked that the strategic thinking around this be brought back to the Panel.

Councillor Malloy stated that some impressive work had been done. She stated that it would be good to include sustainable farming if possible and to encourage schools and Council buildings to use more plant-based food. *The officer explained that there was a partnership around improving local food for consumption coupled with tackling food poverty but these teams have been busy during Covid – we will have capacity for this again further down the line.*

Councillor Grant Johnson explained that in terms of agriculture in the area, there are a lot of ways the private sector is trying to change animals’ diets to reduce methane. We could report methane levels on a joint of beef.

Councillor Joel Hirst thanked the officers for their work and noted that there would be an annual update.

50 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Panel noted the future workplan.

The meeting ended at 5.48 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services